CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i).—ALTERATION OF AREA.

During the year alterations in the area of the State forests were effected as shown in Form No. 46. The following abstract statement shows the result of these changes :—

Class of Forests.	Area on 1st July 1896.	Added during the year.	Excluded or transferred during the year.	Area on 30th June 1897.	Remarks.
	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	
Reserved forests...	1,184 385	8 153	1 383	1,191 155	
Protected do. ...	434 48	.....	0 19	434 29	
Leased do. ...	678 320	.....	.....	678 320	
Total ...	2,297 113	8 153	1 402	2,303 504	

(ii).—FOREST SETTLEMENT.

2. Mr. Orr, I.C.S., was virtually the Forest Settlement Officer in Thána from 1st July 1896 to 28th February 1897. On the 7th July he fell ill and was compelled to take two months' privilege leave. Mr. MacIver, of the Survey Department, took over the office during this period. On his return from leave Mr. Orr was again in charge, and till about the end of October had no other work. At the end of October Mr. Orr was made Assistant Collector, Poona, but continued in charge of the Settlement Office, in addition to his own duties, till the end of February. On 1st March the charge of the Settlement Office was transferred to Mr. Hudson, I.C.S., First Assistant Collector, Bassein Sub-division, in addition to his own duties, who has held it to the end of the year.

3. The settlement and demarcation proposals of the Dáhánu, Umbargaon and Murbád Ranges, which were submitted to Government, were sanctioned by them during the year under Government Resolutions Nos. 4934 and 5052, dated 1st and 6th July 1897, of Revenue Department, respectively.

4. Areas, as detailed below, were obtained by purchase and exchange during the year :—

	A. g.	Rs. a. p.
Acquired by payment of compensation ...	885 30	10,420 1 9
Do. by exchange ...	... ...	...

5. The following statement gives the details of cost of Forest Settlement Officer and his establishment during the year :—

Division.	Forest Settlement Officer.		Office Establishment.		Contingencies.	Total.
	Pay.	Travelling Allowance.	Pay.	Travelling Allowance.		
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Thána	3,844 1 2	405 5 2	1,980 9 10	432 5 10	283 13 6	6,946 3 6

6. The following is the summary of outstanding work in the Tháná Divisions :—

Names of Ranges.	Stages of outstanding Work.								Remarks.
	Occupied Lands to be acquired.				Land to be notified under Section 4.	Land to be settled under Section 7.	Land to be notified under Section 19.	Total.	
	By exchange or Compensation.		Land to be notified under Acquisition Act.						
	Negotiation proceeding.	Negotiation completed.	Land notified but not acquired.	To be notified.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	
South Tháná.									
Sálsette	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Kalyán	...	0 8	44 19	15 39	....	62 19	...	123 5	
Bhiwndi	16 8½	...	...	...	...	0 12¾	...	16 21¼	
Murbád	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sháhápur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...	16 8½	0 8	44 19	15 39	...	62 31¾	...	139 26¼	
Central Tháná.									
Khardi	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,382 0	2,382 0	
Bassein	5 37½	...	1 28¾	0 17½	...	4 21	...	12 24¾	
Vádá	...	...	....	...	...	...	...	...	
Mokhádá	1 34	6 28	...	...	1 15	69 12	...	79 9	
Total ...	7 31½	6 28	1 28¾	0 17½	1 15	73 33	2,382 0	2,473 33¾	
North Tháná.									
Talasri No. I ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Do. No. II ...	...	...	....	...	...	...	...	...	
Máhim	28 17¼	24 15¼	2 33¼	*38 6½	27 35½	33 25½	...	155 13¼	*Notification for lands in column 5 submitted.
Dáhánu	16 4	...	3 18¼	...	†75 12¾	53 17	...	148 12	†Notification for 68 acres and 1¼ gunthas submitted under Section 4.
Umbargaon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total ...	44 21¼	24 15¼	6 11½	38 6½	103 8¼	87 2½	...	303 25½	
Grand Total ...	68 21¼	31 11¼	52 19¾	54 23	104 23¼	223 27¼	2,382 0	2,917 5¼	

7. As in previous year Mr. Orr was allowed this year also to make his monsoon head-quarters at Poona.

8. The following are the details of the work performed by the Forest Settlement Officer :—

(1). While on leave Mr. Orr worked at his Sháhápur Demarcation Report, for which purpose he had taken the papers with him to England, from where he sent intimations of points that wanted clearing up, so that everything was worked out in the office and ready for him when he arrived.

(2). The rains were also devoted to the correction of the revision survey village maps of the Máhim and Bassein Tálukas, after comparing them with the office village maps.

(3). Decisions in Sháhápur settlement proceedings, in which the enquiries had already been held, were written.

(4). The revision of the Mámlatdárs' forest registers of Bhiwndi and Mokhádá were also taken in hand and finished.

(5). Sháhápur acquisition work was proceeding and was nearly completed.

9. As the settlement work of the Tháná District was almost completed, the office and field establishments were discharged except the Shirastedár and one peon.

10. In the Surat District during the year the revision settlement of the Mándvi Range was commenced by Mr. Wood, but the proposals made by him are still under consideration of the local Revenue officers.